

Sophocles

Greek 324 (unique 32850)

Fall 2009

MWF 11-12 in WAG 112

Instructor: Deborah Beck (deborah.beck [at] mail.utexas.edu,)

Office location and hours: WAG 223, W 1-3, F 10-11(ish), and by appointment

Prerequisite: Greek 312 or equivalent, or Greek 412 with approval of undergraduate adviser

Description

This course will focus on the *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone* of Sophocles, reading substantial portions of each in Greek and all of both in English. We may also read selections from other plays of Sophocles in English and/or other authors on the Theban mythological cycle. These plays, although often read as a trilogy with *Oedipus at Colonus* as the middle play, in fact were written at quite different times in Sophocles' life. We will consider

- the Oedipus myth and the Theban mythological cycle as presented in these two plays and in other ancient texts;
- the basic elements of a Greek tragedy, such as the chorus, the different meters used, the overall structure of a typical play, and the staging of tragedy;
- the social and historical context in which Sophocles' plays were performed, including the structure and procedures of the Greek dramatic festivals;
- and the wide range of responses to these plays, including modern scholarly approaches to Greek tragedy.

Course goals

To improve your proficiency at both literary analysis of the poetry of Sophocles and at Greek translation. Our time in class will be devoted mainly to translating assigned readings in aid of these goals. Sometimes our discussions will be more oriented towards one and sometimes more towards the other; you should come to class each day prepared for either or both. A subsidiary goal will be to make you more familiar and comfortable with scholarly approaches to Sophocles.

Grades

Class attendance and participation (20%; 2 "free" absences, attendance grade drops for additional absences); regular quizzes (10%) and two midterm exams (10% each); 2-3 ungraded written assignments (5%); a paper (15%); informal oral reports (10%); and a final exam (20%, December 9 at 7 p.m.). Plus/minus grades will be used according to the following scale:

98-100, A+

93-97, A

90-92, A-

87-89, B+ [and so forth]

Texts

The texts of Sophocles below are available at the COOP; modern scholarly articles will be available electronically by eReserves. There will be a selection of books about Sophocles and Greek tragedy on reserve at PCL.

Sophocles *Antigone*, by Nicolas P. Gross (Bryn Mawr Classical Commentaries)

Sophocles *Oedipous Tyrannos*, by Jeffrey Rusten (Bryn Mawr Classical Commentaries)

You should also have a Greek lexicon and a grammar reference book, but I assume that you have already acquired these in previous Greek classes. If not, let me know, and I will suggest some widely available possibilities.

Course Web site is on Blackboard

Policy statements

If you have a disability or special needs: UT Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present documentation to me as close to the beginning of the semester as possible. For more information, contact SSD at 471-6259, or go to <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

UT Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic dishonesty: Cheating, plagiarism, or any form of academic dishonesty on any assignment will result in a zero on the assignment with no make-up work permitted, as well as a report of the incident to the Student Judicial Committee. Scholastic dishonesty includes any kind of cheating or collaboration on tests, or submitting work that is a) is not your own and/or b) not accurately attributed to its source. It does *not* include informally talking to other students about assignments, but make sure that whatever you write down and hand in as your work is either a) your own work or b) properly attributed to the source you got it from (me, a classmate, a Web page, a book). If you are not sure whether or how to cite something, ask! For more information, contact Student Judicial Services at 471-2841, or go to <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>

Religious holidays: If you need to miss a class or other required class activity for the observance of a religious holiday, you must notify me at least 14 days in advance so we can make alternative arrangements.

Note: the University's Religious Days Policy is online:
http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious_holidays/

****This class will not meet on Monday, September 28** for the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur.**
Class also does not meet on September 7 (Labor Day holiday) and November 27 (Thanksgiving break).
It DOES meet on Wed. November 25.

Late work: I do not accept late work for ungraded assignments. For graded assignments, your work must be handed in on the date and time due. It will be docked five points for each day late, including weekends. Make-up tests are not normally rescheduled except for a religious holiday, unavoidable family absences, or severe illness. Talk to me as far ahead of time -- or as soon after you get sick -- as possible.

Cell phones: Please turn off your cell phone before the start of class each day. If your phone rings or you use it during class, I will count that class as an unexcused absence.